

REMARKS

This communication is in response to the Office Action mailed September 26, 2006. The Examiner has required restriction to one of 4 inventions:

Group I (Claims 1, 2, 5, and 6, all in part), directed to chemical compounds according to the molecular structure diagrams depicted therein, wherein the variable "Ar" is a carbocyclic aromatic ring system;

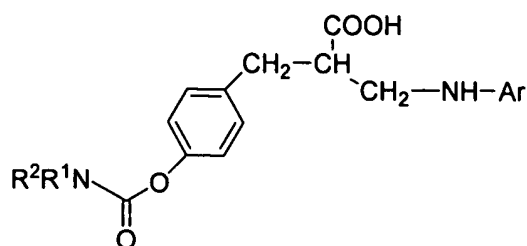
Group II (Claims 1, 2, 5, and 6, all in part), directed to chemical compounds according to the molecular structure diagrams depicted therein, wherein the variable "Ar" is a heteroaromatic (i.e., heterocyclic aromatic) ring system;

Group III (Claims 7-10, all in part), directed to methods of treating various inflammatory conditions, a method for binding VLA-4 in a biological sample and a pharmaceutical composition ostensibly for that purpose, wherein the compound according to any one of Claims 1-6 is from Group I as set forth hereinabove;

Group IV (Claims 7-10, all in part), directed to methods of treating various inflammatory conditions, a method for binding VLA-4 in a biological sample and a pharmaceutical composition ostensibly for that purpose, wherein the compound according to any one of Claims 1-6 is from Group II as set forth hereinabove.

Applicant hereby elects, without traverse, to prosecute the claims directed to Group I, (Claims 1, 2, 5, and 6, all in part), directed to chemical compounds according to the molecular structure diagrams depicted therein, wherein the variable "Ar" is a carbocyclic aromatic ring system in the present application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the remaining claims in a divisional application. Accordingly, prompt examination on the merits of Claims 1, 2, 5, and 6 is respectfully requested.

The Office Action sets a further requirement of electing a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The elected single disclosed species is shown below:



wherein Ar is an optionally substituted aromatic group. The support for the selection can be found in the Specification. At page 5, lines 8 and 13, the Specification discloses that R^a is hydrogen. At page 8, lines 14-26, the Specification discloses that Alk² can be -CH₂-. At page 19, line 10, the Specification discloses that R can -COOH. At page 19, lines 16-17, the Specification discloses that R⁶ can hydrogen.

Claims 1, 2, and 5 have been amended and Claims 3, 4, and 6 have been cancelled. The claims have been amended to read on the elected species. Also, Claim 1 has been amended to clarify limitations previously set off in brackets. Claim 2 has been amended such that the formula numbering is consistent. Claim 5 has been amended to reflect proper claim dependencies.

Claims 7-10 are withdrawn. Claims 7 and 8 have been amended to reflect proper claim dependencies. Accordingly, Claims 7-10 are in proper condition for rejoinder under M.P.E.P 821.04(b) when a claim to the product is found allowable.

Amendments to Specification

The Examiner objected to the disclosure for not having a statement of continuity. The Specification has been amended to disclose a statement of continuity with the proper applications. No new matter is being added herewith.

Conclusion

Should there be any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number appearing below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0872. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by the credit card payment form being unsigned, providing incorrect information resulting in a rejected credit card transaction, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 50-0872.

Respectfully submitted,

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By  _____

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